STATEMENT

The Government has set up a new Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in March 1995 for the development and promotion of these system including Yoga & Naturopathy in the country. Details are as follows:—

(i) Strengthening of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy Education Institutions, Financial Assistance is given for upgradation of facilities in educational institutions of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

(ii) Standardisation of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy drugs, setting up of Laboratory facilities for the testing of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy Drugs.

(iii) Re-orientation training to in-service Teachers, Physicians and Researchers.

(iv) (a) Development and cultivation of Medicinal Plants used in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy medicines.

(b) Scheme for Development of Agro-Techniques & Cultivation of medicinal plants.

(v) Strengthening and establishment of premier Institutes in these systems of Medicine such as National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta. Institutes of Post-Graduate Training & Research in Ayurveda-Jamnagar, Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidhyapeeth, Delhi, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore and National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune.

(vi) Research in Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy is supported through various Central Councils of Research in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy.

(vii) Central scheme for functioning of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani Pharmacopoeia Committees to develop Pharmacopoeial standards for ISM Drugs, and standardization of drugs and testing of drugs through the Pharmacopical Laboratory of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy pharmacoepia laboratory of Gaziabad.

[English]

ISRO Flooded

46. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the headquarters of the Indian Space Research Organisation were inundated with rain water recently;

(b) if so, the extent of damage done to scientific equipments or other things; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The basement of Antariksh Bhavan which houses the Department of Space and the Headquarters of the Indian Space Research Organisation in Bangalore was inundated by unprecedented rain on the night of September 30, 1997 and morning of October 1, 1997. This caused flooding and sudden gushing of water into the building. The flooding occurred mainly due to the fact that Bangalore City received as much as 17.98 cms of rain during the period of around 24 hours and also because of the inadequacy of area drainage system in the locality.

The basement area where the Library, Conference Room, Seminar Hall, Record and Stationery Rooms and Telephone Exchange are located, was affected. However, timely action taken by the Department to drain out the stagnated water early minimised the loss. No scientific equipments are located in the basement. Hence, there was no damage to them. The total loss is approximately Rs. 16.75 lakhs.

Since flooding of Antriksh Bhavan was mainly due to gushing of water from the adjoining areas, the local Municipal Authorities have been approached to improve area drainage system and also to ensure clearance and desilting of the drainage network at regular intervals for their functional efficacy.

Satellite Launching

47. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the News item captioned, "US Okays firing laser to disable satellite" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 4th October, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to Pentagon sources which is reported in the newspaper, the test involved disabling an old satellite which had been launched in may 1996 (now not in service) by aiming a high-power laser beam at it. The laser beam is transmitted from a remote army base in New Mexico.

The objective of the test, according to Pentagon, is not to destroy the satellite or result in any orbital debris, nor to pose any risk to other satellites but only to collect data to study how to protect US satellites against lasers.

(c) The test proposed cannot be considered as a violation of any international treaty to which India is a party. However, development in this area are monitored by the Government.

Clearance to Power Project

48. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power plants received from Rajasthan are pending for clearance of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA);

(b) the estimated cost and capacity of each project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide clearance to those projects at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by M/s Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Limited to Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for implementing the Barsingsar Lignite Mining-cum-Power Generation Project (on the competitive bidding route) in Rajasthan has been considered for techno-economic appraisalby CEA.

(b) The Barsingsar Lignite Mining-cum-Power Generation Project has a proposed capacity of 500 MW and an estimated cost of Rs. 2468.23 crores.

(c) The project will be cleared as soon as the promoters are able to tie up pending inputs and requisite clearances from Central and State Government agencies.

[Translation]

Queen's Visit to India

49. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Queen Elizabeth visited India recently; and

(b) if so the details of talks held between her and Indian leaders?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Queen Elizabeth II paid a State Visit to India from October 12-18, 1997. This was goodwill visit and the talks covered in a general manner, bilateral relations with the U.K., as well as other subjects of mutual concern.

[English]

Non-Aligned Movement

50. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives for identifying the specific areas for revitalising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith response of the other member countries of NAM to the initiatives taken by India; and

(c) the details of action plan finalished/proposed for 1997-98 for vitalisation of NAM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) India has been actively constructively participating in different NAM forums with a view to strengthen and revitalise the Movement. India has taken a number of initiatives to identify specific areas for action in this regard. India hosted the 12th NAM Ministerial Conference in April, 1997 in New Delhi. At this conference, Ministers of Non-Aligned countries concluded that the Movement should enhance its unity and cohesion and co-ordinate positions of member countries towards major international issues with the a view to strengthening their negotiating power. They reiterated that it was essential to widen the scope of agreement, expand the area of action, set clearer criteria and procedures, and develop the principles of solidarity among the members of the Movement. The Ministers directed the Movement to promote jointly its collective positions on international peace and security, UN reforms,